

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 EA-06 LAB-01 SIL-01

COME-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSO-00

SP-02 INRE-00 PRS-01 IOE-00 NEA-06 /058 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9957

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS IMMEDIATE 059

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3774

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ AND QUACKENBUSH

PASS COMMERCE FOR UNDERSECRETARY

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR DALE

BELGRADE FOR AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG EC

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

REF: GENEVA 3772

1. SUMMARY: PRIVATE COMMENTS OF THE UK MISOFF SUGGEST
UK WILLING TO COOPERATE IN ORDER TO KEEP US IN ILO
BUT FEARFUL THAT US MAY HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO LEAVE.
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UK ASSESSMENT OF AFL-CIO AND US EMPLOYER INTENTIONS

NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE IT MAY BE SHARED BY OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER "TECHNICAL LEVEL" CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN US AND EC NINE REFTEL, UK MISOFF ALEXANDER TOLD LABATT THAT UK READING OF GEORGE MEANY'S REMARKS AT NOVEMBER 6 PRESS CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS OF AFL-CIO TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN TUAC, WAS THAT AFL-CIO HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO LEAVE ILO. DISCUSSIONS WITH US EMPLOYERS GAVE SIMILAR IMPRESSION OF INTENTIONS. IF THESE IMPRESSIONS CORRECT, QUESTIONS FOR UKG WAS WHETHER USG HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO LEAVE ILO AND PERHAPS USE OECD AS FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR MATTERS. IF US HAD IN FACT DECIDED TO LEAVE ILO, IT MADE NO SENSE FOR UKG TO "HARM ITS INTERESTS" WITH TUC AND OTHER COUNTRIES ON ISSUES SUCH AS CHILE AND PLO. ALEXANDER ASKED WHETHER PARTICIPATION OF PLO THIS JUNE WAS "A CRUNCH ISSUE" FOR US OR WHETHER COOPERATION WITH US IN LOSING BATTLE WOULD SUFFICE.

3. LABATT REPLIED THAT GEORGE MEANY WAS EASILY MISUNDERSTOOD AND THAT AFL-CIO POLICY, STATED PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY BY BY MEANY AND TOP LEADERSHIP, WAS TO STAY IN AND FIGHT DURING PERIOD BEFORE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL MIGHT TAKE EFFECT. US EMPLOYERS ALSO SUPPORT POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO TURN AROUND ILO BEFORE NOVEMBER 17. USG POLICY OF BRINGING ILO BACK TO ITS FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES WAS ALSO CLEAR; USG PROBABLY WOULD MAKE NO FINAL DECISION ON MEMBERSHIP UNTIL AFTER 1977 ILO CONFERENCE. CONSIDERATION OF USE OF ALTERNATIVE FORUM LIKE OECD LOGICAL BUT NOT URGENT ISSUE FOR US; CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY COSIDER MATTER BUT NOT IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. WHETHER US STAYS IN ILO DEPENDS ON SUCCESS OF WORKING ALLIANCE OF INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBER COUNTRIES AND SO FAR IMEC GROUP HAS NOT BEEN TESTED. US APPRECIATES THAT CHOICE BETWEEN US POSITION VIS-A-VIS ILO AND TUC INTERESTS IS HARD FOR UKG; WE HAVE NOTICED CALLAHAN'S CONCERN FOR TUC INTERESTS DURING MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN. PLO PARTICIPATION AT WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE COULD INDEED BE CRUNCH ISSUE BUT THIS MIGHT DEPEND ON HOW IT AROSE AND HOW IT WAS HANDLED BY IMEC GROUP. ABRAMS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA03774
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760190-0647
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760547/aaaaboaz.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 GENEVA 3772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK VIEWS ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO
TAGS: PORG, US, UK, ILO, EEC, AFL-CIO, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006